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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a computer user who regularly needs to communicate with computers running a Microsoft operating system, the wording of this judgement causes me great concern. Microsoft certainly should not be allowed to use its predominant position in the operating system market to close the lines of communication to other software.

The following is quoted from an article by Robert Cringely, Dec. 6, 2001, and it describes loopholes Microsoft could use to shut out the free software community:

Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

Section III(D) takes this disturbing trend even further. It deals with disclosure of information regarding the APIs for incorporating non-Microsoft "middleware." ...

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